

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CARACA 03870 022226Z

70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01

SSO-00 /034 W

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R 0221020Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3619

S E C R E T CARACAS 3870

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BTRA (ROCKEFELLER, NELSON)

SUBJECT: SECRET VISIT TO VENEZUELA OF NELSON ROCKEFELLER

REF: CARACAS 3833

1. REFTTEL WAS DICTATED BY ME AT MIDNIGHT IN ORDER TO PROVIDE DEPARTMENT ADVANCE NOTICE OF ROCKEFELLER'S PRESENCE IN CARACAS. HE TOLD ME THAT HE AND HIS WIFE, "HAPPY", HAD JUST COMPLETED A THREE-DAY VISIT TO VENEZUELA. MOST OF HIS TIME WAS SPENT AT HIS RANCH IN THE STATE OF CARABOBO. HIS TRIP WAS MANAGED WITH SUCH SUCCESSFUL SECRECY THAT AS YET, SO FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, PRESS HAS NOT GOT WORD OF IT; ANDI CAUTIONED USIS TO REPLY "NO COMMENT" IN CASE THEY ARE QUERIED. THUS FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO MORNING PRESS NOTICE OF VISIT ALTHOUGH FACT OF HIS PRESENCE IN CARACAS WAS CARRIED ON RADIO NEWS BULLETINS THIS MORNING.

2. ROCKEFELLER TOLD ME LAST NIGHT AT A LARGE DINNER GIVEN IN HIS HONOR BY EUGENIO MENDOZA AND ATTENDED BY PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS GONZALO BARRIOS THAT OHLY PURPOSE OF HIS OVERNIGHT STAY IN CARACAS WAS TO CALL ON HIS OLD AND DEAR FRIEND, FORMER PRESIDENT ROMULO BETANCOURT. HOWEVER, EX-GOVERNOR MADE NO SECRET OF FACT THAT UNLESS VICE PRESIDENT FORD SHOULD BECOME A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IN 1976, HE, ROCKEFELLER, WOULD CERTAINLY BE ONE.

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5. ROCKEFELLER DEPARTED MAIQUETIA AT NOON TODAY ON A DIRECT
FLIGHT EITHER TO LA GUARDIA OR TO WHITE PLAINS.
MCCLINTOCK

SECRET

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CARACA03870
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D740106-0109
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740584/aaaahcji.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 74 CARACAS 3833
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <10 JAN 2003 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971030
Subject: SECRET VISIT TO VENEZUELA OF NELSON ROCKEFELLER
TAGS: BTRA, (ROCKEFELLER, NELSON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005